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ABSTRACT

In the Wake County Public School System (WCPSS), North Carolina, the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) is administered to all third grade students each year. The ITBS, which is one of the assessments used as a screening tool for the Academically Gifted Program, was given to approximately 7,700 third graders in 2000. The ITBS can be given as a complete battery or a Survey Battery. The WCPSS uses the Survey Battery with the Integrated Writing Skills Test. Results are reported for a core total and for each of the three sections of this version of the ITBS: Reading, Integrated Writing Skills, and Mathematics. Scores are calculated to show Grade Equivalent (GE) and Percentile Rank (PR), and results are derived from national norms established in December 1995. WCPSS averages show little variation in GE scores across the three subject areas. The core total GE for WCPSS third graders on the survey battery was 3.6. The GE for reading was 3.6, for integrated writing, 3.7, and for mathematics, 3.7. The core total percentile rank of the average score for WCPSS third graders was 62. These scores represent improvement over the last 2 years. A table presents GE and PR figures for each elementary school in the district. (SLD)

MEASURING UP

May, 2001

E&R Report No. 01.32

2000-2001 Iowa Test of Basic Skills

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Wake County Public Schools

Evaluation and Research Department



MEASURING UP

WAKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS EVALUATION AND RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

2000-2001 Iowa Test of Basic Skills

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BACKGROUND

In the Wake County Public School System (WCPSS), the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) is administered to all third-grade students each year. The ITBS and the Cognitive Abilities Tests are two instruments administered as screening tools for the Academically Gifted (AG) Program. Students can also enter the A.G. program in other ways, such as teacher referrals. The ITBS was administered in 2000 to approximately 7700 third-grade students.

ABOUT THE ITBS

The ITBS can be given as a Complete Battery or a Survey Battery. There are two survey batteries: Survey Battery with Five-part Language Test and the Survey Battery with Integrated Writing Skills Test. WCPSS uses the Survey Battery with Integrated Writing Skills Test, which is shorter, but representative of the same concepts and level of difficulty as the Complete Battery. The Survey Battery contains three, 30-minute sections in reading, writing, and mathematics. Subtest scores on both versions of the Survey Battery vary more than scores on the Complete Battery, due to the smaller number of items on the Survey Battery.

Figure 1
Academic Skills Sampled on the ITBS

Test Component	What is Tested	Number of Items
Reading	Vocabulary in context Reading comprehension	33
Integrated Writing Skills	Application of skills in spelling, capitalization, punctuation, usage, expression, editing and evaluating text	25
Mathematics	Concepts, estimation, problem-solving, data interpretation	30

INTERPRETING TEST SCORES

Test scores are provided for each of the three sections and for a core total. The scores are calculated to show Grade Equivalent (GE) and Percentile Rank (PR). Results are derived from national norms established in December 1995.

The GE is a decimal number that describes student performance in terms of grade level and months. For example, if a third-grade student has a GE of 4.6, it suggests that the student performed as well as a typical fourth-grade student from the December 1995 norming group who was in the sixth month of the

school year. GE is an estimate of a student's developmental level. A much higher or lower GE than the student's actual grade level when the test was taken is indicative of exceptional performance (extremely good or extremely poor). The GE is not designed for the purpose of grade placement decisions because the content of the questions is not reflective of the curriculum of higher grade levels.

Percentile rank is another score that compares the relative performance of a student to a group. For example, if a third-grade student has a percentile rank of 87, it means that the student scored better than 87 percent of the students in a comparison group. The comparison group is the group of students who were tested nationally when norms were established. For this testing, Form M of the ITBS was administered and December 1995 norms were used as the comparison group. In this report, average raw scores have been converted to both grade equivalent and percentiles for the system and individual schools.

WCPSS DISTRICT-WIDE RESULTS

District averages show little variation in grade equivalent scores across the three subject areas. The Core Total Grade Equivalent (GE) for WCPSS third-graders on the Survey Battery was 3.6. The GE for reading was 3.6, 3.7 for integrated writing, and 3.7 for math.

Percentile ranks are more sensitive to differences between tests. The core total percentile rank of the average score for WCPSS third-graders was 62. WCPSS third-graders had a reading percentile of 58, an integrated writing percentile of 65, and a math percentile of 64. Figure 2 depicts test scores over time, and shows improvements over the past two years.

**Figure 2
ITBS Test Scores Over Time**

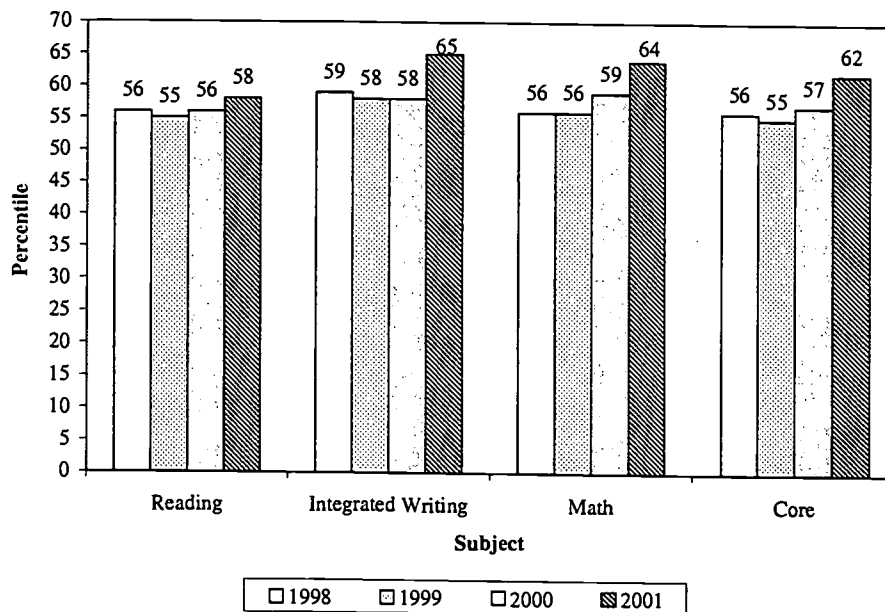


Figure 3 provides grade equivalents and percentile ranks for individual schools and the district.



Figure 3
ITBS Grade Equivalents and National Percentile Ranks of Mean Scale Scores

School	Number Tested	Score	Reading	Integrated Writing	Math	Core Total
WCPSS	7700	GE	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.6
		PR	58	65	64	62
Adams	90	GE	4.0	4.2	4.1	4.1
		PR	67	75	74	74
Apex	163	GE	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.1
		PR	70	74	78	75
Aversboro	69	GE	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.2
		PR	48	51	47	46
Baileywick	93	GE	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.6
		PR	59	66	63	62
Baucom	126	GE	3.9	4.3	3.9	4.1
		PR	67	77	72	74
Brassfield	64	GE	4.2	4.5	4.2	4.3
		PR	73	82	78	79
Brentwood	85	GE	3.0	3.3	3.1	3.1
		PR	40	47	45	42
Briarcliff	89	GE	3.7	3.9	3.8	3.7
		PR	63	71	66	67
Brooks	70	GE	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.3
		PR	49	53	53	50
Bugg	69	GE	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.5
		PR	58	59	59	58
Carver	115	GE	3.0	3.3	3.3	3.1
		PR	40	50	48	44
Cary	112	GE	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.3
		PR	48	52	56	50
Combs	77	GE	3.7	3.6	3.9	3.7
		PR	61	63	71	64
Conn	74	GE	3.4	3.6	3.7	3.5
		PR	53	59	62	57
Creech Road	86	GE	3.2	3.5	3.1	3.2
		PR	46	57	43	47
Davis Drive	203	GE	4.2	4.5	4.5	4.4
		PR	72	82	84	81
Dillard Drive	111	GE	3.3	3.5	3.7	3.4
		PR	52	57	62	56
Douglas	65	GE	3.1	3.5	3.6	3.4
		PR	44	58	59	53
Durant Road	162	GE	4.1	4.3	4.3	4.2
		PR	71	77	80	78

School	Number Tested	Score	Reading	Integrated Writing	Math	Core Total
WCPSS	7700	GE	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.6
		PR	58	65	64	62
Farmington Woods	103	GE	3.7	3.9	3.7	3.7
		PR	61	70	64	64
Fox Road	117	GE	3.3	3.7	3.4	3.4
		PR	52	64	53	56
Fuller	69	GE	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.8
		PR	63	67	70	67
Fuquay-Varina	119	GE	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.3
		PR	54	50	53	51
Green	115	GE	4.0	4.2	3.9	4.0
		PR	68	74	71	72
Green Hope	66	GE	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.1
		PR	70	75	78	75
Hilburn Drive	76	GE	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.9
		PR	65	71	70	69
Hodge Road	117	GE	3.2	3.5	3.3	3.3
		PR	46	57	50	50
Holly Springs	132	GE	3.3	3.6	3.8	3.6
		PR	52	60	66	59
Hunter	120	GE	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.8
		PR	62	68	70	67
Jeffreys Grove	98	GE	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.6
		PR	57	63	62	59
Jones Dairy	155	GE	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.7
		PR	62	66	67	64
Joyner	88	GE	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.4
		PR	55	59	55	56
Kingswood	41	GE	4.1	4.2	4.0	4.1
		PR	69	76	72	74
Knightdale	115	GE	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.1
		PR	43	48	49	45
Lacy	84	GE	3.5	3.9	3.8	3.7
		PR	58	71	68	66
Lead Mine	122	GE	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.6
		PR	60	64	65	63
Leesville Road	94	GE	4.0	3.8	4.0	3.9
		PR	67	69	72	71
Lincoln Heights	76	GE	3.2	3.5	3.4	3.3
		PR	48	58	52	51
Lockhart	100	GE	3.3	3.5	3.5	3.4
		PR	51	58	57	54
Lynn Road	91	GE	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.3
		PR	53	47	49	48

School	Number Tested	Score	Reading	Integrated Writing	Math	Core Total
WCPSS	7700	GE	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.6
		PR	58	65	64	62
Middle Creek	71	GE	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.4
		PR	53	57	60	55
Millbrook	89	GE	3.1	3.4	3.2	3.2
		PR	44	53	47	46
Morrisville	160	GE	4.0	4.5	4.4	4.3
		PR	68	82	82	79
North Ridge	98	GE	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.8
		PR	65	69	67	68
Northwoods	106	GE	3.9	3.7	3.9	3.8
		PR	64	67	71	68
Oak Grove	163	GE	4.3	4.5	4.4	4.4
		PR	73	82	82	80
Olds @ Cardinal Gibbons	35	GE	3.7	3.6	3.4	3.5
		PR	60	63	54	58
Olive Chapel	134	GE	4.0	4.1	3.8	4.0
		PR	68	73	70	71
Partnership	52	GE	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.1
		PR	71	75	74	74
Penny Road	94	GE	3.5	3.7	3.8	3.6
		PR	55	65	65	61
Pleasant Union	101	GE	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.0
		PR	70	71	72	72
Poe	69	GE	3.6	3.4	3.7	3.5
		PR	59	53	62	58
Powell	98	GE	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4
		PR	54	54	53	53
Rand Road	94	GE	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.1
		PR	45	46	46	44
Reedy Creek	117	GE	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.4
		PR	54	58	59	56
Rolesville	79	GE	3.0	3.3	3.4	3.1
		PR	40	51	52	45
Root	66	GE	3.5	3.6	3.8	3.6
		PR	54	63	66	61
Salem	92	GE	3.9	4.3	4.2	4.1
		PR	66	76	76	74
Smith	106	GE	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.1
		PR	45	38	44	40
Stough	95	GE	3.9	4.4	4.2	4.1
		PR	66	78	76	74
Swift Creek	95	GE	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.6
		PR	58	65	57	59

School	Number Tested	Score	Reading	Integrated Writing	Math	Core Total
WCPSS	7700	GE	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.6
		PR	58	65	64	62
Timber Drive	112	GE	3.7	3.9	3.8	3.8
		PR	62	70	68	67
Underwood	57	GE	3.2	3.4	3.6	3.3
		PR	48	54	59	52
Vance	101	GE	3.2	3.5	3.4	3.3
		PR	49	56	53	51
Vandora Springs	82	GE	3.2	3.4	3.6	3.4
		PR	48	53	60	52
Wake Forest	135	GE	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.4
		PR	54	58	58	56
Wakefield	77	GE	3.5	3.8	3.7	3.7
		PR	58	68	64	63
Washington	97	GE	4.0	4.2	4.2	4.1
		PR	67	76	77	75
Weatherstone	79	GE	3.3	3.5	3.7	3.4
		PR	51	57	62	56
Wendell	86	GE	3.1	3.3	3.0	3.1
		PR	43	47	40	42
West Lake	169	GE	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.9
		PR	66	70	70	69
Wilburn	144	GE	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.3
		PR	47	55	55	51
Wildwood Forest	117	GE	3.1	3.5	3.3	3.3
		PR	44	57	49	49
Wiley	56	GE	3.6	4.0	3.8	3.7
		PR	59	72	66	66
Willow Springs	85	GE	3.5	3.7	3.8	3.6
		PR	55	64	67	62
Yates Mill Pond	43	GE	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.3
		PR	47	53	57	51
York	105	GE	3.7	4.1	3.7	3.7
		PR	60	73	64	67
Zebulon	120	GE	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.1
		PR	44	47	49	46



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